

### CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A quick connect blade iron comprising;

~~said a~~ blade having a pair of mounting holes therethrough;  
and

a blade iron having a motor mounting portion, a blade mounting portion and a mounting plate coupled to said blade mounting portion, said mounting plate having a pair of catches sized and shaped to pass through said blade mounting holes and be pivoted relative to said blade mounting portion between an unlocked position allowing the passage of said catches through the mounting holes and a locked position wherein said catches capture said blade,

whereby with the mounting plate in its unlocked position the blade is mounted to the blade iron by positioning the blade against the blade iron and passing the catches through the mounting holes, and the mounting plate is then rotated to its locked position to lock the blade to the blade iron.

2. (Previously amended) The quick connect blade iron of claim 1 wherein said catches have an upright portion and an overhanging portion whereby the blade is captured between said overhanging portion and said blade mounting portion.

3. (Original) The quick connect blade iron of claim 1 wherein said mounting plate includes a tab and wherein said blade iron includes a detent configured to engage said tab.

4. (Original) The quick connect blade iron of claim 3 wherein said detent is a notch.

5. (Original) The quick connect blade iron of claim 1 wherein said blade iron mounting portion further includes at least one stationary protrusion and wherein said blade includes a protrusion hole configured to mate with said protrusion.

6. (Currently amended) In combination with a fan having an electric motor, a plurality of blade irons and a plurality of blades, the improvement which comprises:

a quick connect blade system having two mounting holes extending through the blade and a mounting plate coupled to said blade iron for pivotal movement about a pivot, said mounting plate having two catches positioned upon opposite sides of said pivot, said catches being configured to pass through said mounting holes and to be moved into engagement with said blade,

whereby the blade may be coupled to the blade iron by passing the catches through the blade holes and then ~~and~~ pivoting the mounting plate to move the catches into engagement with the blade.

7. (Previously amended) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said catches have an upright portion and an overhanging portion whereby the blade is captured between said overhanging portion and said blade mounting portion.

8. (Original) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said mounting plate includes a tab and wherein said blade iron includes a detent configured to engage said tab.

9. (Original) The improvement of claim 8 wherein said detent is a notch.

10. (Currently amended) The improvement of claim 6 ~~wherein a blade iron mounting portion~~ further includes at least one protrusion and wherein said blade includes a protrusion hole configured to mate with said protrusion.